

Introduction

Once seen as a private matter between two people, violence that occurs within the context of an intimate relationship is now recognized as a critical issue of public health and safety. Massachusetts has taken the lead nationally in developing programs to specifically address intimate partner violence¹. The Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups², incorporated in 1978, has been looked to as a leader by battered women's programs nationwide. In 1992, then Governor William Weld declared a "Domestic Violence State of Emergency" and subsequently established a Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence. Massachusetts also was the first state in the nation to establish a Registry of Civil Restraining Orders and to implement a surveillance system for weapon-related injuries, both of which provide information about the extent and severity of partner violence. Focus on statewide data collection systems for intimate partner violence have increased since Governor Cellucci established a Research and Evaluation Subcommittee of the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence in 1998.

Intimate partner violence occurs in many forms and often escalates over time. It usually consists of a combination of abuse, violence and threats of abuse and/or violence. Abuse may include tactics such as repeated name calling, isolation from family and friends, limiting access to finances, harming pets, and/or manipulation of children. Physical violence ranges from slaps, kicks and hair pulling to stabbing, shooting and even murder. Many victims are also sexually assaulted by their intimate partners.

Intimate partners are usually defined as current or former spouses, partners, boyfriends, girlfriends or dates³. Women are the primary victims of this type of violence, but it is now recognized that other family members and acquaintances may also be victimized for supporting someone who is being abused by an intimate partner. Children can be especially affected; besides being manipulated to act against a parent or forced to witness traumatic events, they may be injured or even killed as a result of partner violence.

Although the full extent of intimate partner violence in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is unknown, there are several sources of statewide data that provide valuable information about different aspects of this type of violence. This report was created as a guide to statewide data regarding intimate partner violence for service providers, policy makers, educators and scholars, and it contains both summaries of current Massachusetts sources of intimate partner violence data and actual data from each of these sources. Information is included on services provided by battered women's programs, deaths, sexual assaults and weapon-related injuries perpetrated by intimate partners, incidents of partner violence reported to police departments and civil restraining orders issued. The summary of each data source includes an overview, description of the data elements collected, strengths and limitations of the data, descriptions of available reports, and contacts for further information.

¹ In order to avoid confusion with the broader problems of family or household violence, this report uses the terms "intimate partner violence" or "partner violence" rather than "domestic violence".

² The Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women's Service Groups merged with the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault in 1998 to form Jane Doe, Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

³ The exact definition of intimate partner varies slightly for each data source and whenever available has been included as a footnote with each table or figure.

Further information regarding intimate partner violence in Massachusetts will be available in the future. Massachusetts is one of three states funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a system to track statewide rates of intimate partner violence against women. In addition, funds from the 1996 Violence Against Women Act are being used in Massachusetts to support the piloting of a domestic violence data collection system in District Attorney offices as well as a new domestic violence incident report form to be used by police statewide. Despite the limitations of currently available data, it is hoped that the information contained in this report may be used to support services for survivors of intimate partner violence as well as education and prevention programs and policies to address this critical public health issue.

Limitations of the Data

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is fortunate to have several unique sources of information about intimate partner violence. However, currently available data are limited in their capacity to indicate the full extent and nature of intimate partner violence in the state. None of the current data sources are able to provide an estimate of the total number of Massachusetts residents who have experienced intimate partner violence. Some data are available regarding physical and sexual violence perpetrated by intimate partners, but no statewide data are available regarding other forms of abuse including emotional/psychological abuse, financial abuse and the manipulation of children to perpetrate partner abuse.

With the exception of homicide statistics, all data presented in this report are gleaned from service providers. Data from providers is limited because it only describes those persons who have received particular services and have disclosed experiencing violence in an intimate relationship. Because of service provider data limitations, it may not be used to generalize to all survivors and it cannot be used to estimate the true prevalence of partner violence. Individuals in abusive relationships may be prohibited by their partners from seeking services or may not disclose the nature of their relationship due to feelings of guilt or shame, fear of being blamed for the violence, and/or fear of reprisals from the perpetrator. Survivors also may not seek certain services or make a disclosure because they don't know that intimate partner violence is a crime. Disabled individuals may be at risk of losing functional support from their partner and/or health care coverage through their partner's insurance. Individuals in same sex relationships risk having their sexual orientation revealed in the process of filing for protection or accessing services. Immigrants and refugees may fear deportation or a change in their immigration status, in addition to facing linguistic and cultural barriers if they seek assistance.

Data on intimate partner violence are also limited by the content and quality of the information gathered by agencies. There are always limitations to the amount of information that an agency can systematically collect. Adding data elements or revising response categories is often very difficult once a data collection system has been established. It may also be difficult for agencies to provide an unduplicated count of individuals. Unduplicated counts are usually generated through the use of personal identifiers (e.g. name and date of birth) which agencies may not collect in order for clients to be assured complete confidentiality. Data quality is affected by both the completeness and accuracy of the information. Although efforts can be made to minimize missing information, collecting data is always secondary to the immediate care and protection of individuals who are in crisis and/or at risk of future harm. Data accuracy may be affected by many factors including provider assumptions, incorrect coding, data entry errors and reporting rates.

It is also important to note that differences in rates of partner violence over time or between localities is difficult to interpret without additional information. High rates may indicate a higher incidence of partner violence, but may also result from more complete reporting of cases or higher rates of service utilization and/or abuse disclosure. Conversely, lower rates may indicate a lower incidence of partner violence, or may result from underreporting of cases or lower rates of service utilization and/or disclosure.

Despite the limitations in generalizing the data compiled in this report to the Massachusetts population and concerns regarding data quality, these data provide valuable insight into intimate partner violence in Massachusetts. Sufficient information exists to indicate that currently tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents are experiencing intimate partner violence each year. The vast majority of those being hurt appear to be females in their 20's and 30's. The perpetrators appear to be males of similar age or slightly older. Partner violence may be experienced by those in dating relationships or marriages, and may be perpetrated by either current or former partners. Our ability to target services to specific survivor and perpetrator groups and monitor the impact of policies over time will improve as data collection systems for intimate partner violence in Massachusetts continue to be enhanced.

Services Provided by Massachusetts Battered Women's Programs

Overview: Massachusetts battered women's programs provide hotline services, emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and other services to female survivors of partner violence and their children. Battered women's programs have submitted information about services provided to the Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups since 1991. This Coalition merged with the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault in 1998 to form Jane Doe, Inc.. Battered programs supported by state funds also provide service information to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. It is anticipated that more detailed information on client characteristics will be available in the future, as a new computer system for collecting data from these programs was implemented in 1997. Jane Doe, Inc. has also tracked intimate partner violence-related homicides since 1992 (see next section).

Data Elements: Service information collected from battered women's programs includes the number of hotline calls received, number of survivors provided with individual and/or group counseling (including safety planning), survivors accompanied to court to obtain restraining orders, number of women and children served in emergency shelters, safe homes and transitional housing, number of women and children denied shelter, and the total number of shelter beds available. Information is also maintained on the number of outreach sessions conducted by battered women's programs, the number of people reached through these sessions, and the number of program paid and volunteer staff.

Strengths and Limitations: Information collected from battered women's programs is especially valuable because it is specific to intimate partner violence. These programs are also among the first places that survivors of partner violence will be referred by other professionals, although it is presumed that many survivors do not utilize these services. In an effort to maintain confidentiality, identifying information is not utilized in the data collection; demographic information is therefore not available prior to 1997 and some individuals may be counted more than once as a result of having received multiple services. As noted above, a new computerized data collection system was implemented in 1997 and will provide demographic as well more detailed service information.

Reports: Jane Doe, Inc. produces annual reports on the types and number of services provided by battered women's programs each calendar year. Intimate partner violence-related homicide statistics and narratives are also compiled on an annual basis. These reports are available at no cost and may be obtained by contacting: **Toni Wiley, Jane Doe, Inc., 14 Beacon St., Suite 507, Boston, MA 02108-3704, (617) 248-0922(x205).**

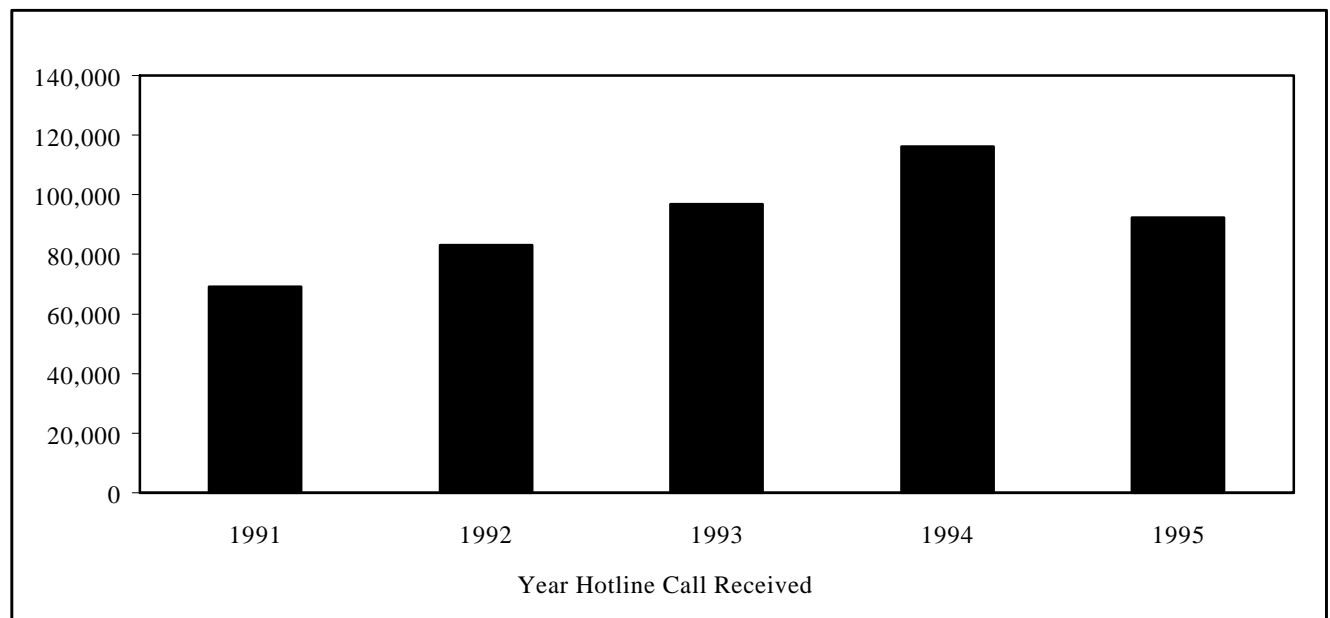
Table 1. Services Provided by Massachusetts Battered Women's Programs, 1991 - 1995

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Hotline Calls	69,016	83,198	96,774	116,075	92,255
Safety Planning/Counseling	8,718	14,303	21,405	41,517	29,004
Women Helped to Obtain Restraining Orders	9,416	11,166	15,452	12,301	11,239
Sheltered Women	1,932	2,596	3,030	2,347	1,669
Sheltered Children	2,543	3,469	4,728	3,169	2,209

Source: Jane Doe, Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

** In 1995, Massachusetts battered women's programs responded to 92,255 hotline calls, provided safety planning/counseling to 29,004 clients, assisted 11,239 women obtain restraining orders and provided emergency shelter to 1,669 women and 2,209 children.*

Figure 1. Hotline Calls to Massachusetts Battered Women's Programs, 1991 - 1995



Source: Jane Doe, Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

** The number of hotline calls served by Massachusetts battered women's programs increased 68%, from 69,016 calls in 1991 to 116,075 calls in 1994; the number of hotline calls subsequently decreased 21% to 92,255 in 1995.*

Massachusetts Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence

Overview: The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) has collected information on homicides suspected of being related to intimate partner violence since January, 1993. MOVA is an independent state agency dedicated to helping crime victims deal with the aftermath of crime. Homicides of intimate partners in Massachusetts, as well as homicides of family, friends or acquaintances of an abused partner, are tracked. Information on abusers who were ultimately killed by their victims is also included. Other sources of partner violence homicide information include Jane Doe, Inc., Peace at Home, and the supplementary homicide reports maintained by the Massachusetts State Police. This report will focus on MOVA data because it includes homicides of family, friends or acquaintances in addition to intimate partner homicides and cases are only included when an intimate partner has been charged with the homicide(s) or has committed suicide after the homicide(s).

Data Elements: MOVA maintains brief narratives describing each homicide as well as a table summarizing pertinent information about each incident. Data elements for each homicide include date of incident, victim's name and age, name and age of alleged perpetrator, relationship between the victim and the alleged perpetrator, relationship category, presence of protective (restraining) orders, weapon used, city/town of incident, county of incident, abuse history, suicide of alleged perpetrator, number of children, and disposition of criminal case. (In the following table, gender is used rather than names. Up-to date case dispositions are not currently available, and, therefore, have not been included.)

Strengths and Limitations: As noted above, MOVA only includes cases in their partner violence-related homicide record where a partner has been charged with the murder(s) or has committed suicide after the murder(s). This makes it less likely that cases not related to partner violence will be included. MOVA also tracks the murders of family and acquaintances of abused partners. This is helpful because it would not be possible to identify the murders of family and acquaintances of abused partners through supplementary homicide reports (SHRs); SHRs only record the direct relationship of the offender to the victim and not all local police departments report murders for inclusion in the SHR, as this is voluntary. A limitation of MOVA homicide data is that they are largely drawn from newspaper accounts, the accuracy of which may be difficult to verify. MOVA does, however, verify certain details of each case with District Attorney Offices. It is also possible that some partner violence-related homicides are missed, either because there is no public documentation of partner abuse or because a case was not detected.

Reports: Narratives and tables summarizing partner violence-related homicides are maintained by calendar year and are continuously updated. This information is available to the public and may be obtained by contacting: **Deborah Fogarty, Domestic Violence Project Manager, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, 100 Cambridge St., Room 1104, Boston, MA 02202, (617) 727-5200.**

Table 2. Massachusetts Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence, 1995

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City/Town</u>	<u>Victim's Sex</u>	<u>Victim's Age</u>	<u>Alleged Perp.'s¹ Sex</u>	<u>Alleged Perp.'s¹ Age</u>	<u>Relationship of Alleged Perp.¹ to Victim</u>
1	1/9/95	Chelsea	F	68	M	78	Ex-husband
2	1/11/95	Stoughton	F	32	M	38	Husband
3	1/11/95	Lawrence	F	18	M	23	Boyfriend
4	1/17/95	Mattapan	F	?	M	38	Estranged Husband
5	1/24/95	Cambridge	F	60	M	62	Husband
6	1/26/95	Dorchester	F	29	M	41	Boyfriend
7	2/4/95	Lawrence	F	37	M	47	Estranged Husband
8	2/12/95	Lynn	M	25	M	28	Sister's ex-boyfriend
9	2/12/95	Lynn	M	23	M	28	Girlfriend's ex-boyfriend
10	2/15/95	Spencer	F	53	M	62	Estranged Husband
11	2/15/95	Spencer	M	41	M	62	Attorney for wife
12	2/16/95	Framingham	F	26	M	27	Live-in boyfriend
13	2/18/95	Lynn	F	28	M	36	Live-in boyfriend
14	3/5/95	Brighton	F	43	M	33	Live-in boyfriend
15	3/10/95	Roxbury	F	22	M	25	Ex-boyfriend
16	3/18/95	Barnstable	F	52	M	41	Husband
17	3/27/95	Boston	F	50+	M	50+	Husband
18	4/21/95	Dorchester	F	33	M	36	Possible boyfriend
19	4/29/95	Dorchester	M	36	F	30	Girlfriend
20	5/7/95	New Bedford	F	32	M	25	Boyfriend
21	5/12/95	Springfield	F	43	M	33	Boyfriend
22	5/27/95	Lawrence	F	46	M	42	Live-in boyfriend
23	6/3/95	Swampscott	F	37	M	31	Live-in boyfriend
24	8/3/95	West Springfield	F	26	M	32	Estranged husband
25	8/18/95	Brookfield	F	25	M	46	Live-in boyfriend
26	8/22/95	Lynn	F	17	M	16	Friend's boyfriend
27	8/28/95	Framingham	F	34	M	40	Husband
28	9/3/95	Holden	F	31	M	34	Husband
29	9/8/95	Lowell	F	32	M	34	Boyfriend
30	9/9/95	Spencer	M	28	M	23	Sister's boyfriend
31	9/20/95	Dorchester	F	20	M	36	Ex-boyfriend
32	9/22/95	Hyannis	F	34	M	42	Estranged husband
33	9/27/95	New Bedford	M	43	F	37	Girlfriend
34	10/3/95	Somerville	F	24	M	41	Boyfriend
35	10/15/95	Greenfield	F	26	M	24	Ex-boyfriend
36	10/15/95	Lynn	M	39	M	53	Girlfriend's ex-boyfriend
37	10/22/95	Dorchester	M	35	F	50	Girlfriend
38	11/3/95	Lynn	F	41	M	46	Husband
39	11/13/95	Lowell	M	12	M	34	Mother's ex-boyfriend
40	11/14/95	Lowell	M	15	M	34	Mother's ex-boyfriend
41	11/17/95	Lowell	M	9	M	34	Mother's ex-boyfriend
42	11/29/95	Somerville	F	38	M	43	Husband
43	11/30/95	Boston	M	48	M	25	Ex-wife's attorney
44	12/21/95	Roxbury	F	42	M	36	Boyfriend

¹ Perpetrator

Source: Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance

Table 2. Massachusetts Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence, 1995
(cont.)

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Relationship Category</u>	<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Suicide by Perp.¹</u>	<u>P. O.² Status</u>	<u>Abuse History</u>	<u>Children</u>
1	Partner/date	Gun	No	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
2	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	None	Unknown	1
3	Partner/date	Knife	No	Expired	On-going	N/A
4	Partner/date	Unknown	Yes	Active	On-going	3
5	Partner/date	Unknown	Attempt	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
6	Partner/date	Gun	No	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
7	Partner/date	Knife	No	None	Out on bail	N/A
8	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Gun	No	None	No	N/A
9	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Gun	No	None	Unknown	N/A
10	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	None	Yes	N/A
11	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Gun	Yes	None	Not this victim	N/A
12	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	None	Perhaps	2
13	Partner/date	Knife	No	None	Yes	N/A
14	Partner/date	Beaten	No	Active	Yes	N/A
15	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	Active	Unknown	N/A
16	Partner/date	Suffocated	No	Active	On-going	N/A
17	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	None	Unknown	N/A
18	Partner/date	Beaten	No	None	Unknown	N/A
19	Abuser by a victim	Knife	No	Unknown	Unknown	5
20	Partner/date	Knife	No	Expired	On-going	2
21	Partner/date	Knife	No	Active	Arrested	N/A
22	Partner/date	Gun	No	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
23	Partner/date	Strangled	Attempt	Unknown	Unknown	1
24	Partner/date	Unknown	No	Active	On-going	1
25	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
26	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Gun	No	Unknown	On-going	N/A
27	Partner/date	Knife/Rock	No	None	Unknown	1
28	Partner/date	Gun	No	None	Unknown	3
29	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	Expired	On-going	1
30	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Knife	No	Active (sister)	On-going	N/A
31	Partner/date	Knife	No	Active	On-going	1
32	Partner/date	Gun	Yes	Active	On-going	2
33	Abuser by a victim	Kitchen knife	No	Unknown	Unknown	4
34	Partner/date	Strangled	No	Expired	On-going	1
35	Partner/date	Knife	No	Unknown	On-going	4
36	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Samurai sword	No	None	Unknown	N/A
37	Abuser by a victim	Stabbed	No	Unknown	Unknown	N/A
38	Partner/date	Gun	No	Unknown	Unknown	2
39	Child	Gun/machete	Attempt	Unknown	On-going	4
40	Child	Gun/machete	Attempt	Unknown	On-going	4
41	Child	Gun/machete	Attempt	Unknown	On-going	4
42	Partner/date	Gun	No	Active	On-going	1
43	Bystander/Oth. Fam.	Gun	Yes	Active (for wife)	On-going	0
44	Partner/date	Strangled	No	Unknown	Unknown	2

¹ Perpetrator

² Protective Order

Source: Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance

Massachusetts Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence, 1995

** In 1995, the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance documented 31 cases of people killed in Massachusetts by an intimate partner; all of the victims were women and all of the alleged perpetrators were men. The victims ranged in age from 18 to 68 and their partners ranged in age from 23 to 78. Nine of the women were known to have had active 209A protective orders; the protective orders for four others had expired. Fourteen women were killed by guns, eight by knives, and nine by other or unknown means. Of the 31 alleged perpetrators, nine committed suicide and two attempted suicide after the killing of their intimate partner. In addition, there were three children and seven bystanders/other family murdered in incidents related to intimate partner violence and three cases where abusers were killed by their victims.*

Table 3. Massachusetts Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence, 1992-1995

<i>Year</i>	<i>Women Killed</i>	<i>Children Killed</i>	<i>Men Killed</i>	<i>Total Killed</i>
1992	31	13	9	53
1993	30	5	10	45
1994	23	1	6	30
1995	32	3	6	41 ¹

¹ These data differ from MOVA data in that bystanders and other family are included as either women killed or men killed, and abusers killed by their victims are not included.

Source: Jane Doe, Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

** According to Jane Doe, Inc. (formerly the Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups), a total of 116 women, 22 children and 31 men were killed in incidents related to intimate partner violence in Massachusetts between 1992 - 1995.*

Sexual Assaults Reported to Publicly-Funded Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers

Overview: The Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has collected data from publicly-funded rape crisis centers (RCCs) since 1985. The primary purpose of rape crisis centers is to assist survivors and significant others in the recovery process following sexual assault and to decrease the incidence of sexual assault. The 21 publicly-funded RCC sites use a standardized form to collect sexual assault information received by telephone hotline or in-person encounters. Types of assaults reported to the RCCs include completed rape, attempted rape, physical sexual assault, verbal sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other forms of assault. The following tables, however, only include data regarding completed rape, attempted rape and physical sexual assault.

Data Elements: The encounter form used for data collection at RCCs prior to 1997 includes the RCC's name, incident ID number, report date, method of report, category of reporter and referral source(s), information on sex, current age, race/ethnicity, and disability of the victim/survivor, type of assault, previous sexual assault, and information about the latest assault including date, age of victim at the time of assault, city of occurrence, time elapsed, place of occurrence, type of coercion/force, type of physical injury, medical attention sought, where the assault was reported, reasons if not reported to police, and intention to prosecute. There is also information on the victim-offender relationship(s), and offender sex, race(s)/ ethnicity(ies), and age(s) at latest assault.

Strengths and Limitations: Rape crisis centers provide valuable statewide information on sexual assaults reported to them by those seeking support and assistance; many of these assaults are not reported to the police. RCC data also document the victim-offender relationship, which is not readily available from the police on a statewide basis. Studies have shown, however, that many sexual assaults are not reported to either the police or rape crisis centers.⁴ As the primary role of RCCs is service provision, frequently to someone in crisis, it is not always appropriate for providers to ask clients every item on the encounter form. Prior to 1997, encounter forms frequently contained missing data; data on intimate partners was also limited by the fact that there was no boyfriend/girlfriend category for the victim-offender relationship. Revised encounter forms which were implemented in 1977 with improved relationship categories and "don't know" options to clearly indicate whether information is known or not.

Reports: The first report released by the MDPH based on rape crisis center data was titled "Shattering the Myths, Sexual Assault in Massachusetts 1985-1987". The MDPH plans to release the report "Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 1988-1997" in the near future. All MDPH reports are available to the public at no cost. To request a report contact: **Marci Diamond, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family and Community Health, Division of Prevention, 250 Washington Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108-4619, (617) 624-5457.**

⁴ Koss MP. Hidden Rape: Sexual Aggression and Victimization in a National Sample of Students in Higher Education. In: Burgess AW, editor. Rape and Sexual Assault II. New York: Garland: 1988.

Table 4. Sexual Assaults¹ Reported to Publicly-Funded Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers, 1988 - 1995
Relationship of Offender to Victim by Year

Year	<u>Int. Partner</u>²		<u>Other Family</u>³		<u>Other Known</u>⁴		<u>Stranger</u>		<u>Missing</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%
1988	198	9%	486	23%	842	40%	338	16%	224	11%	2,088	100%
1989	261	11%	584	24%	1,039	43%	255	11%	252	11%	2,391	100%
1990	204	9%	439	20%	932	42%	302	14%	350	16%	2,227	100%
1991	271	11%	450	19%	914	38%	249	10%	497	21%	2,381	100%
1992	347	12%	557	19%	1,227	43%	262	9%	492	17%	2,885	100%
1993	418	13%	679	21%	1,295	40%	334	10%	546	17%	3,272	100%
1994	415	14%	653	23%	1,176	41%	258	9%	371	13%	2,873	100%
1995	462	14%	749	23%	1,292	39%	271	8%	499	15%	3,273	100%
Total	2,576	12%	4,597	21%	8,717	41%	2,269	11%	3,231	15%	21,390	100%

¹ Includes attempted rape, completed rape, and physical sexual assault.

² Includes spouse, partner/lover, ex-spouse, and ex-partner/lover.

³ Includes parent, step-parent, sibling, and other relative.

⁴ Includes friend, acquaintance, person(s) met on the same day, caretaker/baby-sitter, co-worker, boss/supervisor, school personnel, health professional, counselor/therapist, religious professional and other.

Note: All percentages are based on row totals. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

** Of all sexual assaults, including attempted rape, completed rape and physical sexual assault, reported to publicly-funded rape crisis centers in Massachusetts from 1988-1995, 12% were reportedly committed by intimate partners. The percentage of sexual assaults reportedly committed by intimate partners increased from 9% in 1988 to 14% in 1994 and 1995.*

**Table 5. Sexual Assaults¹ Reported to Publicly-Funded Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers
Assaults Involving Intimate Partners², 1988-1995**

Sex of Victim by Sex of Offender(s)

<i>Sex of Offender(s)</i>										
<i>Sex of Victim</i>	Male		Female		Mult. Males		Males & Females ³		Total	
	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%
Female	2,418	97%	30	1%	44	2%	4	<1%	2,496	100%
Male	34	83%	6	15%	1	2%	0	0%	41	100%
Total	2,452	97%	36	1%	45	2%	4	<1%	2,537	100%

Frequency Missing = 9 sex of victim; 30 sex of assailant

¹ Includes attempted rape, completed rape and physical sexual assault.

² Includes spouse, partner/lover, ex-spouse, and ex-partner/lover.

³ There were no cases where multiple offenders were all female.

Note: All percentages are based on row totals. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

** Of sexual assaults involving intimate partners that were reported to publicly-funded rape crisis centers in Massachusetts from 1988-1995 where sex of the victim and offender(s) is known, 98% of the victims were female and 99% of the offenders were male (single and multiple males combined).*

**Table 6. Sexual Assaults¹ Reported to Publicly-Funded Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers,
1988-1995**
To Whom Sexual Assault Reported² by Relationship of Offender to Victim

<i>To Whom Assault Reported</i>	<i>Relationship of Offender to Victim</i>				
	Intimate Partner ⁴ (n = 2,576)	Other Family ⁵ (n = 4,597)	Other Known ⁶ (n = 8,717)	Stranger (n = 2,269)	Missing (n = 3,231)
Police	28%	17%	35%	57%	15%
Hospital	20%	10%	28%	49%	12%
Family	29%	42%	44%	47%	16%
Friend	35%	29%	43%	41%	15%
RCC ³ Only	23%	17%	15%	12%	7%

¹ Includes attempted rape, completed rape, and physical sexual assault.

² To whom sexual assault had been reported at the time of initial contact with the rape crisis center.

³ Rape Crisis Center

⁴ Includes spouse, partner/lover, ex-spouse, and ex-partner/lover.

⁵ Includes parent, step-parent, sibling, and other relative.

⁶ Includes friend, acquaintance, person(s) met on the same day, caretaker/baby-sitter, co-worker, boss/supervisor, school personnel, health professional, counselor/therapist, religious professional and other.

Note: All percentages are based on the column total. Percentages add up to more than 100% because survivors may have reported an assault to more than one entity.

Source: Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Injuries Reported to the Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System

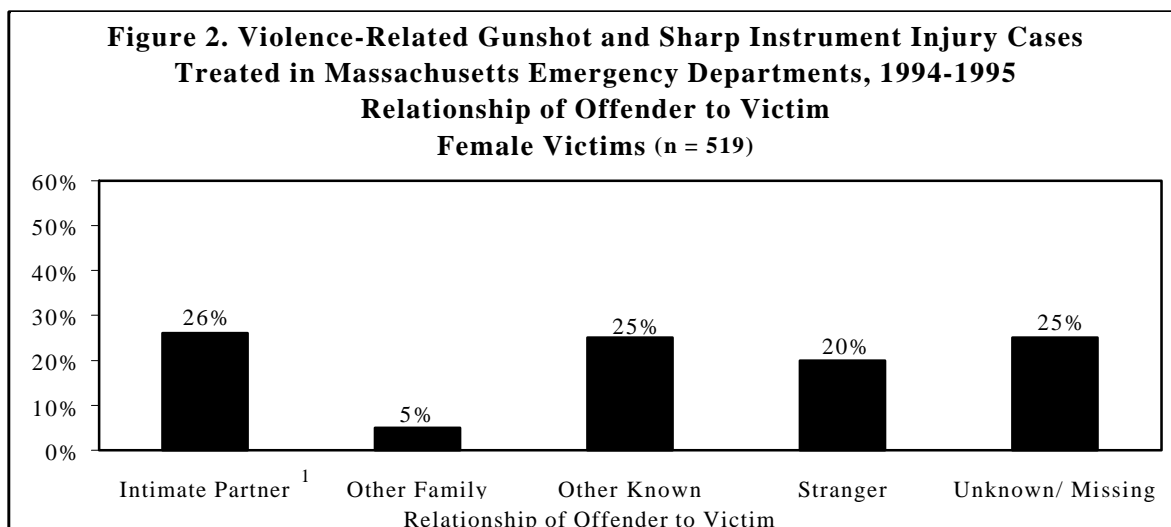
Overview: All acute care hospital emergency departments currently report weapon-related injuries to both the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)¹. The MDPH project that coordinates the collection of these data is the Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System (WRISS). The first hospitals began submitting data to WRISS in 1990, and by the end of 1993 all acute care hospital emergency departments were reporting weapon-related injuries. All gun-related injuries (e.g. violence, accidents, other) and violence-related sharp instrument wounds are reported using a standardized form. Although some fatalities are included in WRISS data, most cases are non-fatal injuries.

Data Elements: WRISS collects information related to the hospital visit, the victim and circumstances around the incident. Data elements related to the hospital visit include hospital name, time of arrival, mode of arrival and discharge disposition. Information regarding the victim consists of his/her address, year of birth, age, sex, race/ethnicity, and medical record number. Information on the incident includes date of incident, city and type of location where incident occurred, whether police were contacted, weapon type, location of wound, whether injury was intentional, circumstances, victim-offender relationship, alcohol intoxication of patient, and a brief narrative describing the incident.

Strengths and Limitations: The weapon-related injury reporting system in Massachusetts is the first of its kind in the nation. WRISS regularly conducts audits to monitor compliance with the reporting system and has found that approximately 75% of all stabbings and shootings seen in emergency departments are reported to the project. One key limitation of these data is that approximately 45% of victim-offender relationships are unknown or unreported, although this is not unusual in violence data. It should also be kept in mind that although WRISS data describes some of the more severe cases of physical violence, it does not cover severe physical or sexual assaults not involving a weapon, nor does it cover pre-hospital deaths.

Reports: WRISS releases an annual newsletter as well as state and local data sheets summarizing recent data. It has also produced the report, "Homicide in Massachusetts, Trends and Characteristics". These reports, various journal articles, and custom data sheets are available to the public at no cost. Requests for reports or specific data may be made to: **Beth Hume, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Research and Statistics, Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System, 250 Washington Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA, 02108, (617) 624-5664.**

1. Hospitals report a different set of information on each case to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety (MEOPS). All data presented in this report are based on MDPH data as the MEOPS does not collect information on the victim-offender relationship.

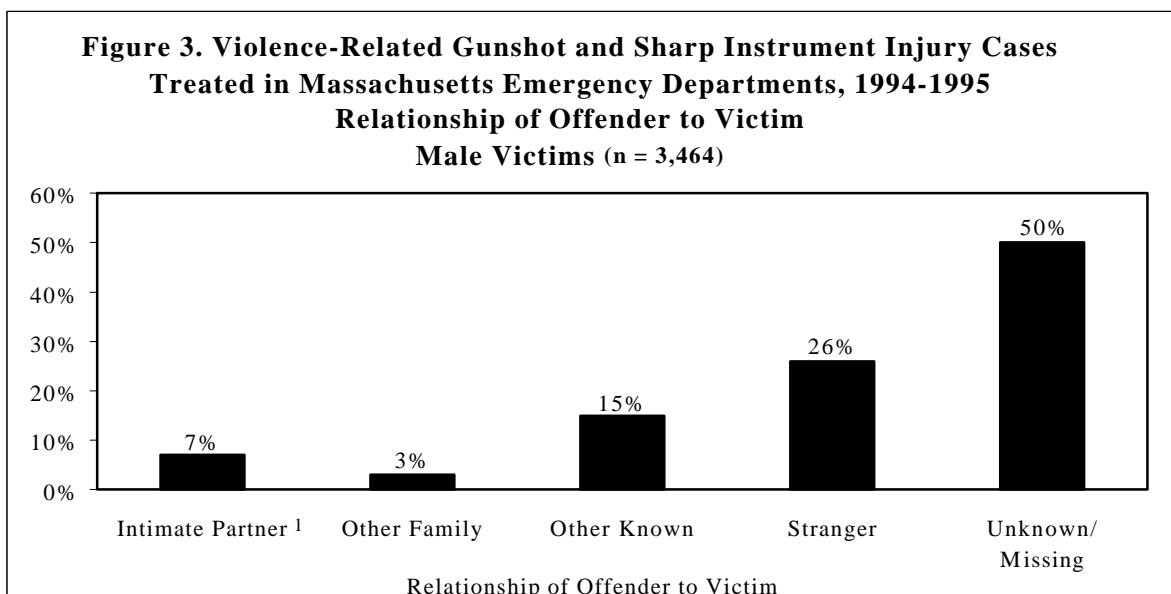


¹ Intimate partner defined as current or ex-spouse/lover.

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Note: High percentage of missing data may affect the validity of these findings.

Source: Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health



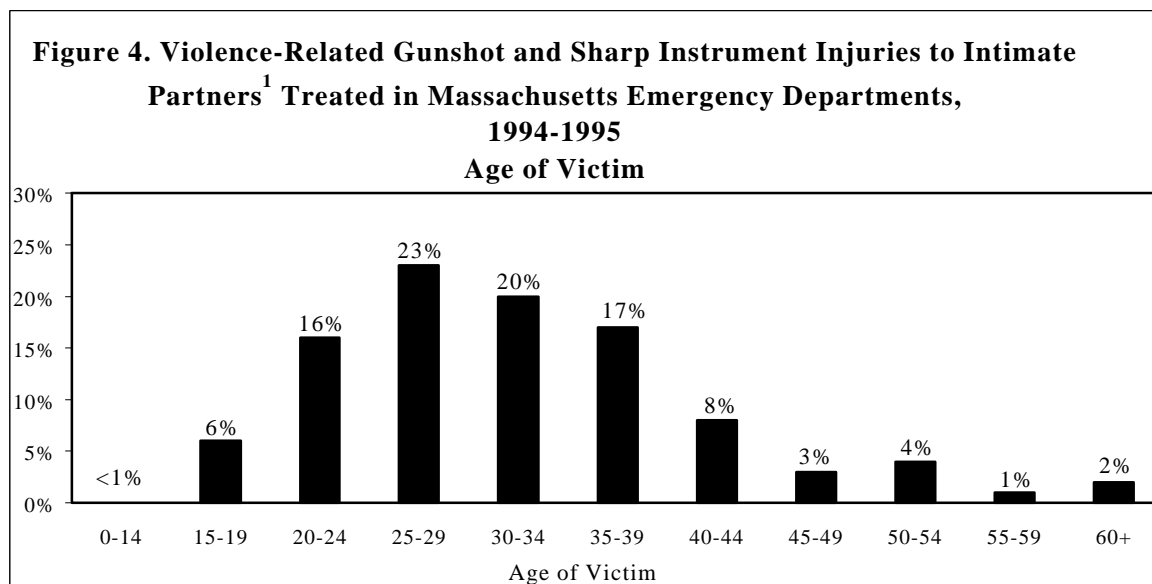
¹ Intimate partner defined as current or ex-spouse/lover.

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Note: High percentage of missing data may affect the validity of these findings.

Source: Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

** Of violence-related gunshot and sharp instrument injury cases treated in Massachusetts emergency departments in 1994 and 1995, 26% of females and 7% of males were reportedly injured by intimate partners. [Note: The relationship of the offender to the victim is unknown/missing for 25% of female victims and 50% of male victims, which may affect the accuracy of these findings.]*



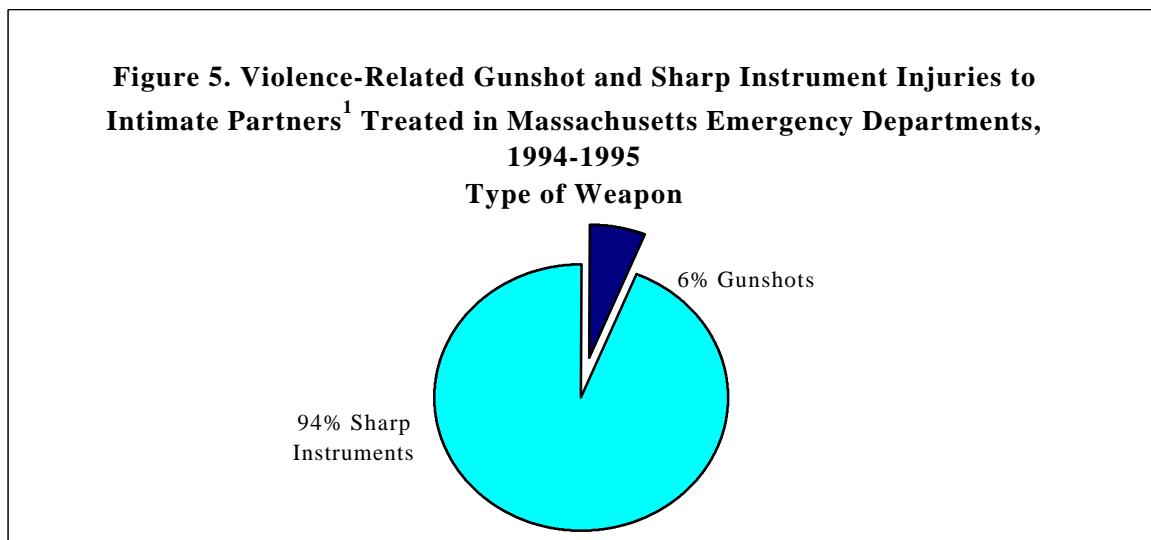
Total valid responses = 381; Frequency missing = 3

¹ Defined as current or ex-spouse/lover.

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

** Of weapon injuries to intimate partners treated in Massachusetts emergency departments in 1994 and 1995, 76% of victims were between the ages of 20-39; 6% were under age 20, and 18% were age 40 or older.*



Total valid responses = 384; Frequency missing = 0

¹ Defined as current or ex-spouse/lover.

Source: Weapon-Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

** Of all weapon injuries to intimate partners treated in Massachusetts emergency departments in 1994 and 1995, 94% were inflicted by sharp instruments and 6% were gunshots; 9% of injuries to female and 4% of injuries to male intimate partners were gunshots.*

Incidents Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments

Overview: The Massachusetts State Police began collecting National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data from municipal and campus police departments in 1994. NIBRS was developed by the FBI in order to obtain more comprehensive information on each reported criminal incident, in contrast with the traditional summary-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The incident-based NIBRS data can be converted into a victim-based file for ease of analysis. NIBRS contains information in 33 crime categories, including most violent offenses. Many municipal police departments are currently limited in their ability to participate in NIBRS due to a lack of computer capacity. In 1995, the year for which data are presented, 64 municipal and 2 campus police departments submitted data to NIBRS for more than half of the year. These departments cover approximately 17% of the state population. As of September, 1999 this number rose to 131 municipal and 4 campus police departments participating in NIBRS, which cover approximately 40% of the state population.

Data Elements: NIBRS data relevant to intimate partner violence include the police department ID number, incident number, and incident date and hour, UCR offense code, offense attempted vs. completed, offender use of drugs/alcohol, location type, and type of weapon/force involved. Victim information includes age, sex, race, ethnicity, and local resident status of the victim, aggravated assault/homicide circumstances, type of injury and victim-offender relationship. Offender and arrestee data include age, sex and race. In addition, relevant arrest data elements include arrest number and date, UCR arrest code, arrestee's ethnicity and local resident status, and disposition of arrestees under age 18.

Strengths and Limitations: Massachusetts is fortunate in that it was one of the first ten states certified to collect NIBRS data for submission to the FBI. NIBRS provides unique information on crimes against intimate partners. Previously, police data collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting System tracked victim-offender relationships for homicides only, thus limiting the system's ability to track other types of crimes committed by intimate partners. As is true of other service provider data, however, NIBRS data is likely to underestimate the number of crimes against partners as not all crimes are brought to the attention of police. In addition, Massachusetts NIBRS data are limited by the fact that not all police departments participate, and there have not yet been any external evaluations of NIBRS data quality. Because NIBRS tracks only a limited number of crimes, some crimes typically perpetrated by partners, (e.g. violation of a restraining order) are not included. Currently there is no way to track multiple incidents involving the same victim and/or offender, but the State Police is planning to track the address of the incident in the future, which would help to identify multiple incidents at the same location.

Reports: In 1995, the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit released "The Potential for Using NIBRS Data to Examine Domestic Violence, Child, and Elder Abuse". NIBRS data is in the public domain. Inquiries may be made to: **Daniel Bibel, Massachusetts State Police, Crime Reporting Unit, 470 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01702, (508) 820-2110.**

Table 7. Incidents Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments, 1995

Maximum Violent Offense¹ by Closest Victim-Offender Relationship²

Maximum Violent Offense	Closest Victim-Offender Relationship													
	Intimate Partner ³		Other Family ⁴		Other Known ⁵		Stranger		Relationship Unknown		Missing		Total	
	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%	-n-	%
Murder/ Homicide ⁶	2	11%	3	16%	3	16%	3	16%	7	37%	1	5%	19	100%
Kidnaping/ Abduction	32	24%	29	22%	16	12%	14	10%	15	11%	29	22%	135	100%
Sexual Assault ⁷	38	7%	71	12%	206	36%	28	5%	160	28%	72	13%	575	100%
Robbery ⁸	10	1%	5	1%	87	12%	123	16%	116	15%	411	55%	752	100%
Aggravated Assault ⁹	1,860	29%	686	11%	1,829	29%	610	10%	683	11%	711	11%	6,379	100%
Simple Assault ¹⁰	1,631	39%	491	12%	903	21%	290	7%	522	12%	379	9%	4,216	100%
Intimidation	370	23%	101	6%	413	26%	65	4%	258	16%	412	25%	1,619	100%
Totals	3,943	29%	1,386	10%	3,457	25%	1,133	8%	1,761	13%	2,015	15%	13,695	100%

¹ When more than one offense, maximum violent offense is in the order of murder/homicide > kidnaping/abduction > sexual assault > robbery > aggravated assault > simple assault > intimidation.

² When more than one offender, closest relationship to victim is in the order of intimate partner > other family > other known > stranger > relationship unknown.

³ Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

⁴ Includes parent, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, child of boyfriend/girlfriend and other family member.

⁵ Includes acquaintance, friend, neighbor, employee, employer and otherwise known.

⁶ Includes murder, negligent manslaughter and justifiable homicide.

⁷ Includes forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with object, forcible fondling, incest and statutory rape.

⁸ Theft or attempted theft involving violence or threat of violence.

⁹ Physical attack involving a weapon and/or resulting in severe injury.

¹⁰ Physical attack not involving a weapon or resulting in severe injury.

Note: All percentages are based on row totals. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police

** Based on incidents reported to NIBRS by 66 Massachusetts police departments in 1995, 29% of violent crime victimizations were reportedly committed by an intimate partner. The portion of these victimizations that involved repeat incidents against the same victim is unknown. Of the 3,943 victimizations against intimate partners tracked by NIBRS in 1995, 47% of the maximum violent offenses were aggravated assault and 41% were simple assault.*

Table 9. Incidents¹ Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments, 1995

**Rate of Intimate Partner² Victimization^{3,4} for Females and Males
by City/Town^{5,6}**

City/Town	Female Intimate Partner Victims			Male Intimate Partner Victims		
	Female Pop ≥ 15	n	Rate per 10,000 Females ≥ 15	Male Pop ≥ 15	n	Rate per 10,000 Males ≥ 15
Acushnet	4,168	36	86	4,019	17	42
Andover	11,194	18	16	10,070	5	5
Ashland	5,617	29	52	5,350	7	13
Athol	4,830	43	89	4,076	7	17
Auburn	6,463	13	20	6,044	0	0
Ayer	2,861	52	182	2,680	12	45
Bolton	1,355	3	22	1,306	0	0
Bourne	6,775	82	121	6,537	15	23
Carver	4,742	22	46	4,241	3	7
Chelsea	12,302	282	229	11,879	26	22
Dartmouth	12,245	88	72	11,142	18	16
Dedham	9,677	70	72	8,922	5	6
Douglas	2,449	16	65	2,376	1	4
Dover	1,965	2	10	1,968	0	0
Easton	8,918	15	17	7,935	0	0
Fairhaven	7,148	83	116	6,039	21	35
Freetown	3,544	20	56	3,481	5	14
Grafton	5,631	30	53	5,480	1	2
Halifax	3,100	10	32	2,866	1	3
Hanson	3,690	28	76	3,439	1	3
Holden	6,340	19	30	5,408	5	9
Hopkinton	3,869	34	88	3,878	8	21
Hudson	7,114	23	32	7,138	1	1
Leicester	3,644	19	52	3,210	4	12
Leominster	16,963	167	98	16,379	13	8
Littleton	3,130	6	19	2,870	1	3
Longmeadow	6,482	3	5	5,368	0	0
Lunenburg	3,918	21	54	3,774	2	5
Marion	2,165	8	37	2,081	1	5
Marlborough	13,345	79	59	12,837	5	4
Medfield	4,047	8	20	4,052	2	5
Middleborough	7,645	56	73	6,834	9	13

¹ Includes murder/homicide, kidnapping/abduction, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, counterfeiting/forgery, fraud, stolen property, and vandalism offenses.

² Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

³ Fifteen intimate partner victims were under age 15 and were therefore omitted from n and rate calculations.

⁴ Individuals may be counted more than once if involved in more than one incident.

⁵ Population of females and males ≥ age 15 from 1995 interpolated estimates based on 1990 U.S. Census data.

⁶ Includes only cities/towns contributing data to NIBRS for all of 1995.

Note: Rates for towns with small populations may be unstable over time and should be interpreted cautiously.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police

Table 9. (cont.) Incidents¹ Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments, 1995
Rate of Intimate Partner² Victimization^{3,4} for Females and Males
by City/Town^{5,6}

City/Town	Female Intimate Partner Victims			Male Intimate Partner Victims		
	Female Pop ≥ 15	n	Rate per 10,000 Females ≥ 15	Male Pop ≥ 15	n	Rate per 10,000 Males ≥ 15
Millbury	5,364	23	43	4,847	3	6
Montague	3,463	38	110	2,949	3	10
Norfolk	2,569	3	12	4,833	0	0
North Adams	7,226	157	217	6,198	31	50
Northborough	4,928	7	14	4,791	2	4
Northbridge	5,430	36	66	4,833	2	4
Norwood	12,404	59	48	10,395	8	8
Orange	3,100	39	126	2,781	12	43
Palmer	5,008	64	128	4,551	15	33
Plymouth	19,280	256	133	18,564	27	15
Rowley	1,843	5	27	1,912	0	0
Salisbury	2,785	37	133	2,769	6	22
Sandwich	7,432	20	27	7,075	4	6
Saugus	10,784	50	46	9,377	7	7
Seekonk	5,324	25	47	5,119	2	4
Shirley	2,509	5	20	3,050	1	3
Shrewsbury	10,988	13	12	10,474	2	2
Southbridge	7,610	99	130	6,438	11	17
Southwick	3,184	13	41	3,216	1	3
Stow	2,271	3	13	2,217	1	5
Sturbridge	3,053	19	62	2,985	6	20
Swansea	6,370	25	39	6,149	5	8
Templeton	2,826	12	42	2,676	2	7
Tewksbury	11,699	59	50	11,452	8	7
Truro	715	9	126	688	4	58
Tyngsborough	3,692	21	57	3,448	1	3
Uxbridge	4,753	34	72	4,479	3	7
Warren	1,895	26	137	1,805	9	50
Webster	7,250	36	50	6,152	6	10
Westborough	6,394	12	19	5,956	1	2
Winchendon	3,623	29	80	3,421	8	23
Worcester	73,021	1,070	147	65,058	72	11
Total	446,129	3,689	83	414,337	459	11

¹ Includes murder/homicide, kidnapping/abduction, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, counterfeiting/forgery, fraud, stolen property, and vandalism offenses.

² Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

³ Fifteen intimate partner victims were under age 15 and were therefore omitted from n and rate calculations.

⁴ Individuals may be counted more than once if involved in more than one incident.

⁵ Population of females and males ≥ age 15 from 1995 interpolated estimates based on 1990 U.S. Census data.

⁶ Includes only cities/towns contributing data to NIBRS for all of 1995.

Note: Rates for towns with small populations may be unstable over time and should be interpreted cautiously.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police

Summary of the Rates of Intimate Partner Victimization by City/Town

** Based on the reports of 64 Massachusetts police departments to NIBRS in 1995, the average rate of intimate partner victimizations to females ≥ age 15 reported to the police was 83/10,000, with a range from 5/10,000 to 229/10,000. The average rate of intimate partner victimizations to males ≥ age 15 reported to the police was 11/10,000, with a range from 0 to 58/10,000. Note that the accuracy of rates for small towns may be unstable over time and should be interpreted cautiously. Rates may also be affected by levels of reporting to NIBRS, utilization of police by survivors and/or partner violence disclosure.*

Table 10. Incidents Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments, Crimes¹ Reportedly Committed by Intimate Partners², 1995

Age of Victim by Age of Offender																	
Age of Victim	Age of Offender																Total
	≤ 19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39		40-44		45-49		50+		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
≤ 19	165	41%	175	43%	42	10%	8	2%	6	1%	3	1%	4	1%	-	-	403
20-24	77	9%	329	40%	283	34%	95	12%	32	4%	9	1%	-	-	-	-	825
25-29	15	2%	103	13%	303	38%	248	31%	91	11%	30	4%	12	2%	7	1%	809
30-34	2	<1%	33	4%	137	17%	323	39%	227	27%	70	9%	25	3%	10	1%	827
35-39	1	<1%	12	2%	74	12%	137	22%	226	36%	117	19%	41	7%	13	2%	621
40-44	4	1%	6	2%	10	3%	56	18%	67	22%	89	29%	43	14%	29	10%	304
45-49	-	-	2	2%	4	3%	9	7%	21	15%	34	25%	31	23%	35	26%	136
50+	-	-	-	-	5	3%	11	8%	10	7%	12	8%	31	21%	77	53%	146
Total	264	6%	660	16%	858	21%	887	22%	680	17%	364	9%	187	5%	171	4%	4,071

Frequency missing: age of victim = 107; age of offender = 28

¹ Includes murder/homicide, kidnapping/abduction, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, counterfeiting/forgery, fraud, stolen property, and vandalism offenses.

² Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

Note: All percentages are based on row totals. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police

** Of incidents involving intimate partners which were reported to NIBRS by 66 Massachusetts police departments in 1995, approximately three-quarters (76%) of victims and offenders were between the ages of 20 - 39; 10% of victims and 6% of offenders were age 19 or under; 14% of victims and 18% of offenders were age 40 or older. In cases where the victim was age 34 or under, approximately 80% of offending partners were in the same age range or older; where the victim was age 40 or older, approximately half of offending partners were younger than their victim.*

**Table 11. Incidents Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments,
Crimes¹ Reportedly Committed by Intimate Partners², 1995**

Victims' Injuries Documented by Police

<i>Injury</i>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<i>Injury</i>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Unconscious	4	<1%	Loss of teeth	4	<1%
Severe laceration	155	7%	Other major injury	29	1%
Apparent broken bones	22	1%	Apparent minor injury	1,997	89%
Possible internal injuries	37	2%			
			Total Injuries³	2,248	100%

Total valid cases = 3,581; Frequency missing = 621

¹ Includes murder/homicide, kidnaping/abduction, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, counterfeiting/forgery, fraud, stolen property, and vandalism offenses.

² Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

³ There are two possible injury codes for each victim, therefore, the number of injuries may exceed the number of victims.

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police.

** Of incidents involving intimate partners which were reported to NIBRS by 66 Massachusetts police departments in 1995 where injury information is available, 61% of intimate partner victims were noted to have injuries. Of these injuries, 89% were classified as apparent minor injuries.*

**Table 12. Incidents Reported to Selected Massachusetts Police Departments,
Crimes¹ Reportedly Committed by Intimate Partners², 1995**

Type of Weapon Involved					
<i>Weapon</i>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<i>Weapon</i>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Handguns	14	<1%	Personal weapon ⁵	2,795	83%
Other Firearms ⁴	12	<1%	Asphyxiation	8	<1%
Knife/cutting Instruments	135	4%	Poison	3	<1%
Blunt object	131	4%	Other	175	5%
Motor Vehicle	45	1%	Unknown	33	1%
			Total Weapons³	3,351	100%

Total valid cases = 3,533; Frequency missing = 669

¹ Includes murder/homicide, kidnapping/abduction, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny/theft, counterfeiting/forgery, fraud, stolen property, and vandalism offenses.

² Includes spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

³ There are two possible weapons codes for each incident; therefore, the number of weapons may exceed the number of incidents.

⁴ Includes rifle, shotgun, firearm and automatic firearm.

⁵ e.g. hands, feet, teeth.

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of State Police.

** Of incidents involving intimate partners which were reported to NIBRS by 66 Massachusetts police departments in 1995 where weapon information is available, weapons were used or were present in 89% of cases; personal weapons (e.g. hands, feet, teeth) were most frequently (83%) reported.*

Civil Restraining Orders Issued by Massachusetts Courts

Overview: In September, 1992, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Probation in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, implemented the nation's first computerized Registry of Civil Restraining Orders. The Registry is designed to provide judicial and law enforcement agencies with accurate and reliable information for the issuance and enforcement of civil restraining orders. Both temporary and permanent civil restraining orders (CROs, also referred to as Protective Orders or 209As) issued by all district, superior and probate courts are entered into the Registry on the same day they are issued. CROs may be obtained for five categories of relationships: current and former spouses, parents of one or more children, dating relationships, related to each other by blood or marriage, or living in the same household. Emergency CROs are obtained through a separate process from the Judicial Response System and are not maintained as part of the Registry.

Data Elements: The data maintained in the Registry of Civil Restraining Orders is confidential and accessible only to judicial and law enforcement personnel.

Strengths and Limitations: The Registry of Civil Restraining Orders is a unique source of information about survivors of partner violence who have sought this type of assistance. Although the relationship between plaintiff and defendant is not routinely tracked in the computerized registry, a 1994 study of 1,000 restraining order affidavits found that 82% were against current or former intimate partners¹. It should be noted, however, that there are many reasons why survivors may not seek a restraining order, including that in some cases this action might provoke a batterer to inflict further harm on the survivor. Due to the confidential nature of restraining order data, it is not available to the public for analysis.

Reports: The Research and Planning Department of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation routinely releases reports on the total number of civil restraining orders issued by court and by defendant's sex. These reports are available by calendar or fiscal year. The Office of Probation has also compiled two special reports on partner violence: "Young Adolescent Batterers: A Profile of Restraining Order Defendants in Massachusetts" and "The Tragedies of Domestic Violence, A Qualitative Analysis of Civil Restraining Orders in Massachusetts", in addition to contributing to the article, "Men Who Batter, Profile From a Restraining Order Database" in the Archives of Family Medicine. Requests for reports should be made to: **Sandra Adams, Assistant Director of Research, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Research and Planning Department, One Ashburton Place, Room 405, Boston, MA 02108-1612, (617) 727-5307.**

1. This sample consisted of all CROs issued between September 19-23, 1994. The sample of 1,000 CROs was compared to all CROs issued in 1994 and was found to be similar in terms of court and defendants' gender, age and prior criminal record.

**Table 13. Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts
1995**

Court	Court Type	# of Orders	# of Defendants	# Male Defendants	# Female Defendants
Adams	District	80	75	71	4
Attleboro	District	542	485	414	71
Ayer	District	331	306	263	43
Barnstable	District	785	706	560	146
Boston Municipal	District	191	183	155	28
Brighton	District	281	255	228	27
Brockton	District	984	891	735	156
Brookline	District	125	118	94	24
Cambridge	District	599	542	457	85
Charlestown	District	157	134	116	18
Chelsea	District	721	651	566	85
Chicopee	District	370	328	284	44
Clinton	District	179	163	135	28
Concord	District	284	260	228	32
Dedham	District	274	252	207	45
Dorchester	District	1,689	1,536	1,258	278
Dudley	District	504	459	397	62
East Boston	District	595	559	455	104
East Brookfield	District	360	319	280	39
Edgartown	District	115	98	86	12
Fall River	District	1,211	1,084	890	194
Fitchburg	District	498	451	392	59
Framingham	District	529	486	410	76
Gardner	District	382	332	271	61
Gloucester	District	318	285	233	52
Great Barrington	District	169	154	129	25
Greenfield	District	376	345	288	57
Haverhill	District	711	614	506	108
Hingham	District	445	402	312	90
Holyoke	District	488	439	399	40
Ipswich	District	133	121	103	18
Lawrence	District	1,095	1,007	868	139
Leominster	District	358	324	290	34
Lowell	District	1,584	1,440	1,230	210
Lynn	District	1,410	1,261	1,043	218
Malden	District	960	870	721	149
Marlborough	District	283	259	222	37

¹ Includes temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders.

Source: Office of the Commissioner of Probation

**Table 13. Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts
1995 (cont.)**

Court	Court Type	# of Orders	# of Defendants	# Male Defendants	# Female Defendants
Milford	District	323	295	255	40
Nantucket	District	74	68	57	11
Natick	District	111	103	81	22
New Bedford	District	1,284	1,157	922	235
Newburyport	District	342	313	273	40
Newton	District	202	188	164	24
North Adams	District	242	213	185	28
Northampton	District	651	585	486	99
Orange	District	239	207	173	34
Orleans	District	376	334	259	75
Palmer	District	317	276	230	46
Peabody	District	266	242	205	37
Pittsfield	District	508	435	366	69
Plymouth	District	540	480	401	79
Quincy	District	1,352	1,270	1,062	208
Roxbury	District	797	735	611	124
Salem	District	770	669	548	121
Somerville	District	808	694	584	110
South Boston	District	329	294	242	52
Springfield	District	1,426	1,275	1,076	199
Stoughton	District	194	184	161	23
Taunton	District	541	498	428	70
Uxbridge	District	253	213	186	27
Waltham	District	364	337	288	49
Ware	District	172	148	129	19
Wareham	District	523	469	391	78
West Roxbury	District	1,064	992	838	154
Westborough	District	217	208	177	31
Westfield	District	302	280	229	51
Winchendon	District	78	73	61	12
Woburn	District	558	520	434	86
Worcester	District	640	593	475	118
Wrentham	District	333	312	270	42
Barnstable	Probate	448	408	338	70
Berkshire	Probate	221	186	142	44
Bristol	Probate	466	435	378	57
Dukes	Probate	0	0	0	0
Essex	Probate	514	462	377	85
Franklin	Probate	83	82	64	18

¹ Includes temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders.

Source: Office of the Commissioner of Probation

**Table 13. Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts
1995 (cont.)**

Court	Court Type	# of Orders	# of Defendants	# Male Defendants	# Female Defendants
Hampden	Probate	1,076	996	845	151
Hampshire	Probate	72	71	61	10
Middlesex	Probate	771	708	599	109
Nantucket	Probate	3	2	2	0
Norfolk	Probate	905	658	582	76
Plymouth	Probate	1,049	960	784	176
Suffolk	Probate	591	539	444	95
Worcester	Probate	1,370	1,276	1,094	182
Barnstable Superior	Superior	0	0	0	0
Berkshire Superior	Superior	0	0	0	0
Bristol Superior	Superior	24	23	23	0
Essex Superior	Superior	6	6	5	1
Franklin Superior	Superior	2	2	2	0
Hampden Superior	Superior	1	1	1	0
Hampshire Superior	Superior	0	0	0	0
Middlesex Superior	Superior	8	8	7	1
Norfolk Superior	Superior	0	0	0	0
Plymouth Superior	Superior	0	0	0	0
Suffolk Superior	Superior	71	71	57	14
Worcester Superior	Superior	9	9	6	3
TOTAL		44,002	39,757	33,354	6,403

¹ Includes temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders.

Source: Office of the Commissioner of Probation

* 44,002 civil restraining orders were issued against 39,757 defendants by Massachusetts courts in 1995; 84% of defendants were male and 16% were female.

Table 14. Civil Restraining Orders Issued by Massachusetts Courts

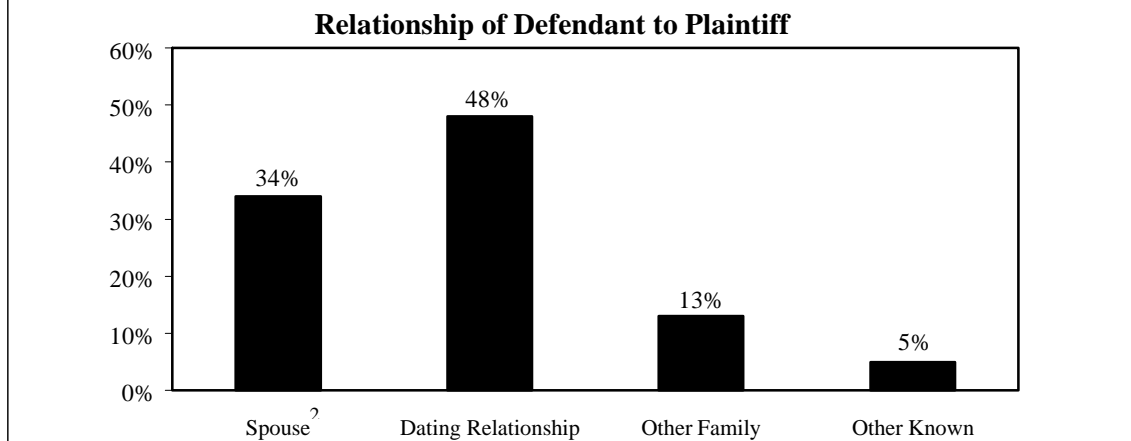
Number of Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Year, 1993 - 1995

<i>Year</i>	<i>n</i>
1993	49,251
1994	46,720
1995	44,002

¹ Includes temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders.

Source: Office of the Commissioner of Probation

Figure 7. Sample of 1,000 Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts in 1994



Total valid responses = 878; Frequency missing = 122

¹Includes all temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders issued between September 19-23, 1994. This sample was similar to all CROs issued in 1994 in terms of defendant's age, gender and prior criminal record.

²Includes current and former spouse.

Source: Adams, S. and Powell, A. (1995) *The Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A qualitative analysis of civil restraining orders in Massachusetts*. Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.

Table 15. Sample of 1,000 Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts in 1994², Orders Against Intimate Partners

Status of Defendant's Relationship to Plaintiff						
<i>Relationship of the Defendant</i>	<i>Current</i>		<i>Former</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>-n-</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>-n-</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>-n-</i>	<i>%</i>
Husband	161	61%	103	39%	264	100%
Boyfriend	220	59%	151	41%	371	100%
Wife	15	44%	19	56%	34	100%
Girlfriend	24	46%	28	54%	52	100%

¹Includes all temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders issued between September 19-23, 1994. This sample was similar to all CROs issued in 1994 in terms of defendant's age, gender and prior criminal record.

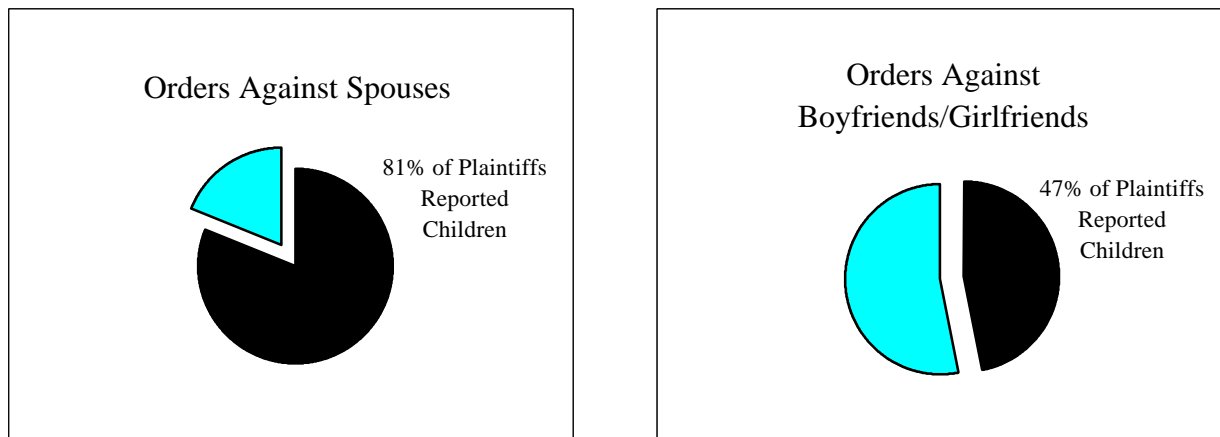
²Where relationship is known.

Note: All percentages are based on row totals.

Source: Adams, S. and Powell, A. (1995) *The Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A qualitative analysis of civil restraining orders in Massachusetts*. Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.

** In a 1994 sample of civil restraining orders issued by Massachusetts courts where the relationship of the defendant is known, 82% were taken out against intimate partners, 88% of whom were male. The relationship was more likely to be current when the defendant was a husband or boyfriend (60%) than when the defendant was a wife or girlfriend (45%).*

Figure 8. Sample of 1,000 Civil Restraining Orders¹ Issued by Massachusetts Courts in 1994², Orders Against Intimate Partners³
Percent of Plaintiffs Reporting They Had Children



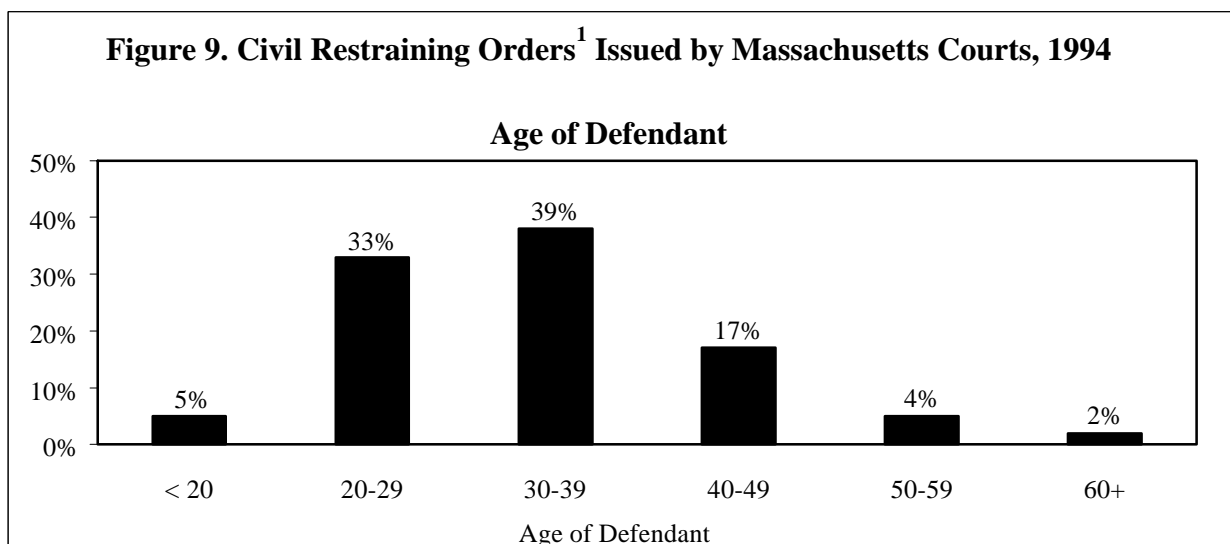
¹ Includes all temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders issued between September 19-23, 1994. This sample was similar to all CROs issued in 1994 in terms of defendant's age, gender and prior criminal record.

² Where relationship of the defendant is known and affidavits were obtained.

³ Includes current and former spouse and dating relationships.

Source: Adams, S. and Powell, A. (1995) *The Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A qualitative analysis of civil restraining orders in Massachusetts*. Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.

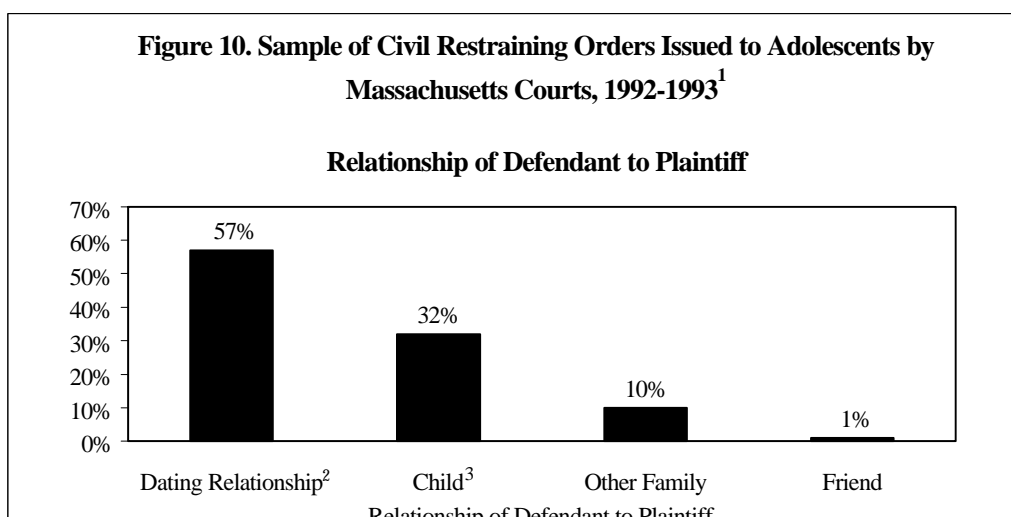
** In a 1994 sample of civil restraining orders issued against intimate partners by Massachusetts courts, of those against spouses, 81% of plaintiffs noted in their affidavits that they had children; of those against boyfriends/girlfriends, 47% of plaintiffs noted that they had children.*



Total = 40,428

¹ Includes temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders.

Source: Adams, S. and Powell, A. (1995) *The Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A qualitative analysis of civil restraining orders in Massachusetts*. Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.



Total valid responses = 648; Frequency missing = 109

¹ Includes all temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders issued to defendants aged 11-17 between September 1992 - June 1993.

² Includes current and former dating relationships.

³ The defendant was a child of the plaintiff.

Source: Cochran, D., et. al. (1994) *Young Adolescent Batterers: A Profile of Restraining Order Defendants in Massachusetts*.
Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.

**Table 16. Sample of Civil Restraining Orders Issued to Adolescents by
Massachusetts Courts, 1992-1993¹**
Characteristics of Dating Violence Defendants²

		-n-	%
Sex	Male	298	81%
	Female	71	19%
Age³	13	3	1%
	14	15	4%
	15	30	8%
	16	74	20%
	17	247	67%
Prior Violent Offense		210	57%
Prior CRO Violation		73	20%

Total dating violence defendants in sample = 369

¹ Includes all temporary and permanent, but not emergency, 209A civil restraining orders issued to defendants aged 11-17 between September 1992 - June 1993.

² Includes current and former dating relationships.

³ None of the dating violence defendants were age 11 or 12.

Note: All percentages are based on a total of 369 dating violence defendants.

Source: Cochran, D., et. al. (1994) *Young Adolescent Batterers: A Profile of Restraining Order Defendants in Massachusetts*.
Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court.

** In a sample of civil restraining orders issued against adolescents ages 11-17 by Massachusetts courts between 1992 - 1993, 57% of the defendants were in a dating relationship with the plaintiff. Of these defendants, 81% were male, 87% were ages 16-17, 57% had a prior arraignment for a violent offense, and 20% had a prior arraignment for violation of a civil restraining order.*